

CALLED: Given Purpose

John 1:43-51

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. -Matthew 28:19 NIV

People always say, "I'll believe it when I see it." There are many times in life where we believe what we hear without actually seeing it firsthand. For example, when you watch the news or listen to the radio you often believe what you hear because you trust that their words are true. But what does that mean for us as Christians? In John 20:29, Jesus says "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." So why can it sometimes be difficult to believe and trust in God when we can't see him or feel his presence?

Doubt is the biggest obstacle when it comes to our faith. When we begin to doubt, we often think that in order to feel God's presence and know that he is there, we need to see something happen. In John 1, Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael to follow him. Upon hearing that Jesus was from Nazareth, Nathanael doubts that Jesus is truly the Messiah and asks, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip simply responds with "come and see." A simple invitation. It wasn't until Nathanael accepted the invitation and witnessed Jesus' abilities firsthand that he believed.

Even though we can't see it, the Holy Spirit is always actively working through us. God calls us to "go and make disciples of all nations." As Christians we often get into the routine of going to church and then spending the rest of the week going about our own lives. However, God calls us to take what we learn on Sundays and go out and share the good news with others. We may not always see the change that sharing the gospel may cause, but we can have faith knowing that the Holy Spirit is working inside of them.

The next time you begin to doubt, remember that God is always with you. He won't abandon you even if you start to doubt. Find comfort in knowing that "believing is seeing," not the other way around.

Let us pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for always being there to guide me and comfort me. Give me the strength on the days where I may doubt your presence to believe without seeing. Help me to spread your love and share your word with others. Thank you for being my guiding light. Amen.

